

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING
TRANSMITTAL OF COPY OF INTERNATIONAL
PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(CHAPTER I OF THE PATENT COOPERATION
TREATY)
(PCT Rule 44bis.1(c))

Date of mailing (day/month/year)
27 October 2005 (27.10.2005)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
ITT0055 ✓

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/001437 ✓

DOCX/TEED
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EUROPEAN PATENTS
DEPARTMENT

5 NOV 2005

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Priority date (day/month/year)
04 April 2003 (04.04.2003) ✓

Applicant
ISTITUTO DI RICERCHE DI BIOLOGIA MOLECOLARE P ANGELETTI SPA et al ✓

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
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Authorized officer

Dorothée Mülhausen

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference IT0055	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/GB2004/001437	International filing date (day/month/year) 02 April 2004 (02.04.2004)	Priority date (day/month/year) 04 April 2003 (04.04.2003)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC 7 C07D 487/10, 401/14, 417/12, 401/12, 487/04, 403/10, 413/12, 407/04, 409/14, A61K 31/404, A61P 31/14, C07D 413/04, 471/04			
Applicant ISTITUTO DI RICERCHE DI BIOLOGIA MOLECOLARE P ANGELETTI SPA			

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 7 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

Date of issuance of this report 14 October 2005 (14.10.2005)

Authorized officer

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Form PCT/IB/373 (January 2004)

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PC

REC'D 22 JUL 2004

WIPO

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference see form PCT/ISA/220		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below	
International application No. PCT/GB2004/001437	International filing date (day/month/year) 02.04.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 04.04.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC C07D487/10, C07D401/14, C07D417/12, C07D401/12, C07D487/04, C07D403/10, C07D413/12, C07D407/04,			
Applicant ISTITUTO DI RICERCHE DI BIOLOGIA MOLECOLARE P ...			

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Menegaki, F Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8277	
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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/001437

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. **type of material:**
 - a sequence listing
 - table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. **format of material:**
 - in written format
 - in computer readable form
 - c. **time of filing/furnishing:**
 - contained in the international application as filed.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/001437

Box No. II Priority

1. The following document has not been furnished:

- copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(a)).
- translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(b)).

Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

2. This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43bis.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/001437

Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

the entire international application,
 claims Nos. 6

because:

the said international application, or the said claims Nos. 6 relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):
see separate sheet

the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (specify):

the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

no international search report has been established for the whole application or for said claims Nos.

the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing does not comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions in that:

the written form	<input type="checkbox"/> has not been furnished
	<input type="checkbox"/> does not comply with the standard
the computer readable form	<input type="checkbox"/> has not been furnished
	<input type="checkbox"/> does not comply with the standard

the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in computer readable form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.

See separate sheet for further details

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/001437

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43b/s.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-8
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-8
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-5,7,8
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the International application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/GB2004/001437

(III)

Claim 6 is directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body and therefore no preliminary examination is required (Rule 67.1(iv) PCT).

Moreover, it is noted by the IPEA that for the assessment of Claim 6 on the question whether its subject-matter is industrially applicable, no unified criteria exist in the PCT. The patentability under national patent laws can also be dependent on the formulation of the claims. The EPO, e.g., does not recognize the subject-matter of claims to the use of a compound in medical treatment as being industrially applicable, but will allow, however, claims to a known compound for the manufacture of a medicament for a new medical treatment.

(V)

Having regard to the International Search Report as well as the prior art cited by the Applicant in the description the claimed subject-matter differs from documents (D1) WO 02/057287; (D2) WO 03/010140; (D3) EP-A-1162196; (D4) WO 02/04425; (D5) EPO-A-080154

due to the present 1-alkylcarboxamide substituent, and therefore appears to be novel. (Art.33(2) PCT)

The problem underlying the present invention is considered to be the provision of novel 1-alkylcarboxamide substituted indole derivatives of formula (I)/(Ia) having HCV-inhibiting activity.

Documents (D1) to (D4) disclose, i.a., 2-arylindole compounds as RNA viral polymerase inhibitors, which differ due to the 1-alkylcarboxamide substituent group in the present formulas (I)/(Ia). The present 1-alkylcarboxamide substituent group is considered to be an essential distinguishing feature and therefore, the skilled man faced with the problem underlying the invention would not have expected the present compounds to have similar HCV viral polymerase inhibiting activity.

Therefore, an inventive step can be acknowledged, (Art.33(3) PCT), provided that all claimed compounds possess the claimed properties. In this connection reference is made to the fact that the compounds prepared and tested by the Applicant bear "A1"=cyclohexyl; n=2 (see also title of the application, referring to "indole acetamides").

Moreover, it is noted by the IPEA that the definition of process Claim 8 does not define any reactants, products or reaction steps and is considered to be unclear.